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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

- and the -

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

F O R T H E Y E A R 1944.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

- of the -

CASTLE WARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTHUMBERLAND.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending December, 31st, 1944.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	82,827
Population	12,550
Number of inhabited houses	3,674
Rateable Value	£99,802
Sum represented by a penny rate	£426.

The two main occupations in the area are coal mining and agriculture, the former being in the eastern part of the district.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

	M.	F.	
Legitimate	96	105	
Illegitimate	7	7	
Total:	103	112	= 215

Birth Rate:- 17.0 per 1000 per annum compared with 15.9 per 1000 per annum in 1943.

Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 18.1 per 1000 per annum.

Still Births.

	M.	F.	
Legitimate	3	2	
Illegitimate	-	-	
Total:	3	2	

Total Rate (Live and Still) 17.5 per 1000 per annum compared with 15.7 per 1000 per annum in 1943.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 158 compared with 126 in 1943.

Death Rate:- 12.6 per 1000 per annum compared with 9.3 per 1000 per annum in 1943.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 11.6 per 1000 per annum.

The three main causes of deaths were:

Heart disease	...	...	...	...	42
Cancer	...	...	...	...	26
Intracranial Vascular Diseases	...				20
Total:					88

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal Causes.

- Nil -

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths under one year of age was 9 compared with 6 in 1943.

	M.	F.	
Legitimate	5	3	
Illegitimate	1	2	
Total:	6	3	= 9

Death rate of all Infants under one year per 1000 Live Births was 41.8 compared with 28.5 in 1943.

Deaths from Cancer:- There have been 26 deaths from this cause.

"	"	Measles	Nil
"	"	Whooping Cough	Nil
"	"	Diarrhoea	Nil
"	"	Tuberculosis (Respiratory & other forms)	8

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (A) Medical - Part time Medical Officer of Health
(B) Others - Sanitary Inspector with Assistant, both having Certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute.
Also act as Inspectors of Dairies and Cowsheds, Meat Inspectors and the carrying out of the Housing Scheme under the Housing Acts.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

The examination and analysis of Clinical Material (Sputum, Swabs, etc.,) milk and water is under the control of the County Council.

3. Nursing in the Home.

(A) General. - Most of the district is supplied with nurses having the C.M.B. qualification and supplied by the County Nursing Association, under the control of the County Council, the funds being provided by voluntary contributions, with the addition in some instances of small fees.

(B) Infectious Diseases. - Relief nurses from the County Nursing Association when available.

4. Hospitals.

(A) Infectious Disease. - West Northumberland Joint Infectious Hospital situated at Lemington: Takes in cases from Newburn, Gosforth, Prudhoe, and Hexham Urban Districts, and from Hexham and Castle Ward Rural Districts, 68 beds.

(B) Smallpox - Arrangements have now been made with the Earlston Joint Hospital Board to remove and treat cases occurring in this area.

(C) Tuberculosis - Provision is made by the County Council in their Sanatoria - and Preston Hospital, North Shields, and Ponteland Emergency Hospital.

(D) General Medical and Surgical - Treated in the various Hospitals in Newcastle upon Tyne.

(E) Maternity. - Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle, Newcastle General Hospital (abnormal cases) Dilston Hall, Corbridge, Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington.

5. Ambulance Facilities.

(A) Infectious Cases. Removed by respective Hospital Authorities.

(B) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. The district is served by ambulances from East Walbottle Coal Co. Ltd., Ponteland, Corbridge Branch British Red Cross Society, Dinnington Colliery, and Morpeth R.D.C., arrangements having been made with the various authorities mentioned.

PREVELANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Cases occurring in the forces	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ...	16	14	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria ...	9	9	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia neo natorum	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pnuemonia	16	Nil	4	Nil
Measles	29	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	10	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas ...	6	1	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	5	{ 1 Flexum 3 Sonne 1 Amoebic	1	1
Malaria	2	Nil	2	Nil
TOTAL CASES	... 95	25	8	1

Cases in Forces are included in the total.

Scarlet Fever.

16 cases notified compared with 27 in 1943.

Diphtheria.

Nine cases have been notified compared with six in 1943.

Of these cases, three adults and three children had not been immunised and there was one death.

The number of children immunised during the year was 77.

Tuberculosis.

Number of cases 52.

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
26	21	2	3

School Closure.

No schools were closed during the year on account of Infectious Diseases or other cause.

Bacteriological Examinations.

During the year the following Bacteriological Examinations have been made.

	Positive	Negative	Total.
Sputum for T.B.	4	31	35
Swabs for B. Diphthæria	6	71	77
Blood for Agglutination	1	5	6
Miscellaneous specimens	-	-	169
Milk Samples for T.B.	-	-	..
Milk (M.B. Reduction Test)	-	-	..
Samples of Water.	-	-	17

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) HARALD. J. NICHOLSON. M.B.Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st, DECEMBER, 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my sixth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Owing to the continued difficult conditions due to the National Emergency it has only been possible to give attention to the most essential and more urgent matters likely to affect the health and welfare of the general public. House repairs were very difficult but the best use has been made of the material and labour available to get the most necessary repairs carried out.

HOUSING.

The ten Agricultural Workers Cottages allocated to the Council were completed during the year and are all occupied.

Plans were submitted for alterations and improvements to five Agricultural Workers Cottages under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act. A few plans were also submitted for the provision of additional bedrooms to individual houses to meet the needs of growing families.

WATER SUPPLIES.

There have been no major extensions to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's mains during the year in the Council's area.

The Council's four schemes at Whalton, Heugh, Heddon, and Kirkheaton continue to function well and give a wholesome supply for domestic purposes. During the year new cement asbestos mains were laid in the village of Kirkheaton.

The water supplied from the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company is filtered and chemically treated and regular samples are taken for bacteriological examination. The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Samples from the Council's own supplies are submitted to the County Laboratory for analysis, these have been satisfactory. No treatment is carried out at these supplies.

The villages of Stannington, Belsay, Matfen, Capheaton, Whalton and Berwick Hill and East Heddon are supplied by private supplies under the control of the various Estate Owners.

The remainder in the scattered parts of the district rely on wells and springs for their supply.

Total No. of houses in area.	3674	Population	12,556
No. of houses supplied from public mains.	2360	"	8,024
Direct into house.	1848	"	6,283
By means of standpipe.	512	"	1,740

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

It has not been possible to carry out any works of improvement to the Council's nineteen separate works, but they have been maintained in good working order and continue to give fairly satisfactory effluents.

SEWERAGE.

There have been no sewer extensions during the year but all sewers continue to receive regular attention and are functioning satisfactorily.

SCAVENGING.

The following parishes are scavenged by direct labour, Ponteland, Darras Hall, Little Callerton, Whalton, West Brunton and North Gosforth, a few houses adjoining these parishes are scavenged by arrangement.

SALVAGE.

This work still continues partly in conjunction with the collection of house refuse and partly by a special collection where there is no regular system of scavenging. The amount of material available is gradually decreasing. The following amounts were collected and disposed of.

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£.	S.	D.
Paper and Cardboard.....	50.	10	0	0	323.	0.	0.
Scrap iron and tins.....	12	6	0	0	48.	18.	0.
Non-ferrous metals.....			2.	0	1.	12.	0.
Rags and sacking.....	6	1	0	0	49.	0.	0.
Bottles and jars: 214 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz.	1	1	0	0	6.	8.	0.
Rubber.....	2	5	0	0	5.	12.	0.
Bones.....	3	7	0	27	18.	16.	0.
	75	10	2	27			
					£453.	6.	0.

RODENT CONTROL.

This work is carried out by the Council's workmen, who have had instructions on the work.

FOOD INSPECTION.

All meat consumed in the district is sent in from the Ministry of Food Pool and inspected regularly.

The following food stuffs were condemned during the year:-

	lbs,		lbs.
Beef.....	45	Cheese.....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton	20	Fish	20
Pork	13	Biscuits.....	30
Sausage	48	Vegatables.....	184
Bacon.....	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fruit.....	29
Butter	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Canned goods.....	208
Margarine.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) JAMES BOLTON.

Sanitary Inspector.

